

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON XM TD
SUBJECT: INTER-AMERICAN SPECIALIZED CONFERENCE ON
PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW

REF: STATE 201740

1. EMBASSY OFFICER ON SEPT. 20 CONVEYED US VIEWS AND
INTENDED COURSE OF ACTION ON THE DRAFT AGENDA OF THE
CONFERENCE (REFTEL) TO THE HEAD OF THE GOTTS EXTAFF
LEGAL DIVISION (LENNOX BALLAH) AND HIS DEPUTY (PHILLIP
SEALEY) WHO IS IN CHARGE OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE
CONFERENCE.

2. BALLAH AGREED THAT THE CONFERENCE COULD DEAL
SUCCESSFULLY WITH ONLY A FEW TOPICS AND THAT PREPARA-
TIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE EASIER IF THESE
TOPICS WERE SELECTED WELL IN ADVANCE. HE SAID THAT HIS
INITIAL REACTION WAS THAT THE GOTTS HAD A GREATER INTEREST
IN DEALING WITH ITEM 8 (RECOGNITION AND EXECUTION OF
FOREIGN JUDICIAL JUDGMENTS) AND ITEM 9 (TAKING OF
EVIDENCE ABROAD IN CIVIL AND COMMERCIAL MATTERS) THAN
IN THE THREE TOPICS FAVORED BY THE USG. AMONG OTHER
REASONS, HE EXPLAINED THAT THE GOTTS HAD CONSIDERABLE
DIFFICULTY IN ENFORCING LEGAL JUDGMENTS FOR SUPPORT

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AGAINST ITS CITIZENS WHO TOTALLY ABANDONED THEIR FAMILIES
HERE WHEN THEY LEFT THE COUNTRY AND IT WOULD LIKE TO

IMPROVE THE SITUATION.

3. BALLAH HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE CONFERENCE DEALING WITH ITEM 7 (PROCEDURES FOR LETTERS REQUISITORIAL AND LETTERS ROGATORY) AND WITH ITEM 10 (LEGAL SYSTEM FOR POWERS OF ATTORNEY TO BE USED ABROAD) SINCE HE BELIEVED THERE WAS ALREADY WIDE AGREEMENT ON THESE TOPICS WHICH WOULD FACILITATE RAPID CONCLUSION OF THE ONVENTIONS AND A GOOD BEGINNING FOR THE CONFERENCE. ITEM 5 (INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION) WAS OF LESS INTEREST TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, BALLAH SAID, AND WOULD BE A VERY COMPLICATED AND CONTENTIOUS MATTER WHICH THE CONFERENCE WOULD NOT EASILY RESLVE.

4. ACCORDING TO BALLAH, THE COMPOSITION OF THE GOTR DELEGATION TO THE CONFERENCE WILL DEPEND ON THE TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED BUT WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, AND THE HIGH COURT IN ADDITION TO THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. ALTHOUGH NO DELEGATES HAVE YET BEEN SELECTED, WE EXPECT THAT BALLAH WILL HEAD THE DELEGATION.

MILLER

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